

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 132010
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /027 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PAW
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NEA ONLY

-----103223 241753Z /50

R 241712Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T STATE 132010

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, US

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: RABAT 3021

1. GENERAL STATEMENT ON PAGE 15 OF POLICY REVIEW MEMO
ENCLOSED WITH MAY 12 BISHOP-ANDERSON LETTER TO EFFECT
THAT NEW ARMS TRANSFERS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED REFERS IN
FACT ONLY TO CASES OF FMS SALES OR "SIGNIFICANT" MUNITIONS
CONTROL LICENSING CASES WHERE, AS EMBASSY NOTES, WE HAVE
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ARMS MIGHT BE USED IN THE SAHARA
OR IN MAURITANIA BECAUSE OF THEIR CHARACTERISTICS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY ONE OR TWO MINOR
CASES INVOLVING SMALL ARMS TO DATE WHERE GROUNDS FOR
SUSPENSION HAVE NOT APPLIED. ITEMS UNDER SUSPENSION
INCLUDE A-10, TANKER AIRCRAFT, APC'S AND OTHER ARMORED

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PAGE 02 STATE 132010

VEHICLES AS WELL AS COBRA/TOW AND OV-10 AIRCRAFT. SUSPEN-
SION WOULD ALSO APPLY TO LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR C-130
TRANSPORTS AND CH-47 HELICOPTERS, IN WHICH WE BELIEVE
FROM INFORMAL INDICATIONS THAT MOROCCANS STILL INTERESTED.
QUESTIONS OF A-10'S AND TANKERS INVOLVE OTHER POLICY
CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND POTENTIAL USE IN SAHARA HOSTILITIES,
AND DECISIONS LIKELY TO BE NEGATIVE EVEN IF SAHARA ISSUE

CAN BE RESOLVED.

2. WILKINSON-MOFFAT LETTER OF MAY 12 GIVES OUR CURRENT
THINKING ON USE OF FY-1978 FMS CREDITS. EMBASSY COMMENTS
INVITED. CHRISTOPHER

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